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Discworld

TERRY PRATCHETT

Anirudh Krishnan

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Contents

Rincewind Novels

1	The Colour of Magic	1
2	The Light Fantastic	14
3	Sourcery	24
4	(Faust) Eric	37
5	Interesting Times	44
6	The Last Continent	58
7	The Last Hero	71

City Watch Novels

1	Guards! Guards!	72
2	Men at Arms	87

Part 2: City Watch Novels

Book 1: Guards! Guards!

Chapter 1

The library of the Unseen University faces is invaded by a thief

Samuel Vimes, Captain of the City Watch, lies drunk in a gutter, as the Librarian sleeps soundly within the library of the Unseen University at Ankh-Morpork. An intruder sneaks into the library, and steals a powerful magical tome, to take it to the meetup of a secret society in a dark alley somewhere in the city.

Brother Fingers hands over the stolen book to the Supreme Grand Master

Brother Fingers supplies an elaborate password to gain entry into the dark chamber used by his group for their meetup. He brings the stolen book to the Supreme Grand Master, clothed in the formal black robes of the secret society, and watches the old man start their session. The Supreme Grand Master thinks about how the other secret societies had all poached the talented and ambitious acolytes, with only the leftovers in his own group.

The Supreme Grand Master seeds the idea of a scion returning to Ankh-Morpork, to claim its throne

Brother Watchtower and Brother Plasterer interrupt the Supreme Grand Master's speech to talk about the usual tropes surrounding a lost scion, who returns to the kingdom in its time of greatest need, and takes the throne after proving his lineage and saving the city. Eventually, the argument veers in the direction of the king proving his identity by vanquishing a worthy foe, like a dragon.

The Supreme Grand Master tries to get his acolytes to join him in summoning a dragon

The Supreme Grand Master is delighted to see his acolytes arrive at the dragon hypothesis, and lets slip the fact that the stolen tome contains instructions to summon actual dragons from their hidden

dimension. Brother Watchtower warns the Supreme Grand Master about the wizards criminalizing the use of magic by anyone outside their University, and is quickly shot down by Brother Plasterer, who resents them for their white-collar lives.

The Supreme Grand Master convinces his secret society to participate in the summoning

The Supreme Grand Master hints at the fact that whoever summons the dragon has full control of it, as the acolytes come to terms with the idea of using the magic spells contained in the book. Meanwhile, a young boy from the mountains, named Carrot Ironfoundersson, is headed to Ankh-Morpork, with his ancestral sword strapped to his back.

Samuel Vimes recalls the funeral of Herbert Gaskin

Samuel Vimes wakes up from his drunken stupor, to recall the funeral of his colleague Herbert Gaskin earlier in the day, and faintly recalls the need for a replacement. Carrot Ironfoundersson recalls his father breaking the news to him that he was adopted, and in truth was a human boy found wandering in the forest, next to a trade caravan set aflame by bandits.

Carrot Ironfoundersson recalls his father's decision to send him to the city

Carrot Ironfoundersson's father talks to his old friend Varneshi, who trades in precious metals with the dwarves at their mines outside Ankh-Morpork, and is convinced to let his son mingle with human society. Varneshi had given him a copy of the Ankh-Morpork laws, and told him that he was expected to know it cover to cover, in order to qualify for a job as important as the City Watch.

Carrot Ironfoundersson arrives at the city gates of Ankh-Morpork

Carrot Ironfoundersson talks to a guard snoozing at his post on the city gates, and asks to see the Patrician. The guard instead points him to the tavern frequented by Samuel Vimes, and is appalled to see someone volunteer for a punishment position like the Night Watch. Meanwhile, the Supreme Grand Master convinces his acolytes to concentrate on the idea of a dragon, as he utters the single sentence in the book meant to summon the creature.

The dragon of Ankh-Morpork is successfully summoned for a few seconds

Death comes in person, to collect a petty thief who runs into the dragon of Ankh-Morpork and gets burned by its flames. A while later, the Supreme Grand Master wakes up from his spirit-walk into the dragon's mind, as his acolytes argue about sensing the dragon's aura. The Supreme Grand Master notices the magical trinkets gathered by his disciples crumble to dust, and explains to them that more magic will be needed to make the dragon last longer.

Carrot Ironfoundersson decides to confront the Thieves' Guild

Carrot Ironfoundersson writes a letter to his father, informing him of how immoral the city is, in comparison to Varneshi's recollection of his great-grandfather's tales. He tells his father that the Thieves'

Guild is simply allowed to exist, and that he is going to try and destroy it to add to his accomplishments as a City Guardsman.

Vetinari chastises the leader of the Thieves' Guild

The leader of the Thieves' Guild complains to Vetinari, the patrician of Ankh-Morpork, that a lowly guardsman dragged him through the streets in handcuffs, and demands an apology from the administration. Vetinari in turn asks him why he is targeting unimportant magical trinkets across the city, and reminds him that unlicensed thieves needed to be reined in at all costs.

Vetinari thinks about taming the Thieves' Guild

Vetinari recalls his negotiation with the Thieves' Guild, legalizing them and converting them into an informal insurance bureau, in exchange for the defunding of the City Watch. Once the higher-ups in the guild had gotten a taste of social status and legitimacy, they had quickly cracked down on any thieves taking more than the negotiated annual budgets.

Samuel Vimes is berated by Lupine Wonse for letting for the commotion at the Thieves' Guild

Samuel Vimes, still lost in a drunken haze, walks into Lupine Wonse's office, and listens to the complaint about the Thieves' Guild. He dimly recalls the tall young man who had spoken to him in the tavern at noon, as Lupine Wonse reminds him about the letter written by a dwarf from the Ramtops seeking employment for his son in the City Watch.

Samuel Vimes reaches the Watch House to prepare for the night shift

Samuel Vimes salutes Lupine Wonse when asked to chastise the new recruit, and limps back to the City Watch headquarters, now a rundown ruin inhabited by rats and owls more than people. He thinks about his two existing colleagues, corporal Nobby and lieutenant Colon, as he prepares to start his night shift with a stiff drink and his work uniform.

Samuel Vimes sets off in search of Nobby

Samuel Vimes is alarmed by Colon's idea of sending the newcomer out into the city with Nobby showing him the ropes, and sets out to find them. Meanwhile, Brother Watchtower unscrews the magical signboard used by the tavern next to the Watch House to fuel the dragon summoning ritual at the secret society's hideout.

Nobby tries to learn about Carrot Ironfoundersson's motivations in joining the Watch

Nobby, a world-weary man addicted to his cigarettes, tries to wring the truth out from Carrot Ironfoundersson about why he wished to join the City Watch. He is amused by Carrot Ironfoundersson's naivete, and his belief in the rule of law as it existed before Vetinari's reforms. They come across a dwarf bar, and hear sounds of a fight brewing inside. Carrot Ironfoundersson enters the bar, affronted by the idea of dwarfs drinking, as Nobby tries to talk him out of interfering.

Carrot Ironfoundersson and Nobby walk into the Mended Drum

Carrot Ironfoundersson gives the dwarfs a speech about their mothers missing them from the old lands, and of how their behaviour was shaming all of dwarf-kind. The fighting stops abruptly, with many dwarfs moved to tears, as Nobby pulls Carrot Ironfoundersson out of the tavern, worried for his life. They go next to the Mended Drum, where Nobby greets the troll bodyguard Detritus, as he gets ready for another night of drinking.

Carrot Ironfoundersson gets into a fight with the regulars of the Mended Drum

Carrot Ironfoundersson reads out some criminal charges to the owner of the Mended Drum, triggering a bar-fight as the tavern regulars slowly realize what is happening to their favourite haunt. Nobby crawls out of the bar, to see Samuel Vimes and Colon stumbling in, and advises them not to bother saving their comrade. They carry Carrot Ironfoundersson upstairs into the inn as he collapses from exhaustion, having beaten up every single denizen in the tavern.

Samuel Vimes and his men accidentally end up in the Shades

Samuel Vimes wonders how they will face the wrath of the assorted barbarians and mercenary cutthroats once they woke up from Carrot Ironfoundersson's pummeling, as they drag the recruit up the stairs to the empty rooms. A while later, as they walk through the criminal district of the city, called the Shades, Colon realizes all of a sudden that they might have taken a wrong turn in the dark, and condemned themselves to a swift death by garroting in the dark alleyways of the Shades.

Samuel Vimes comes across the aftermath of the dragon's flame-breath

The thugs shadowing the Watch are burnt to a crisp by the Supreme Grand Master's dragon, with Samuel Vimes arriving too late to witness the dragon itself. He is horrified by the smoking remains of the gang on the opposite wall, whose stones are still red-hot from the flames. At their hideout, the Supreme Grand Master baits his acolytes into renewing their oath of secrecy, spurred by the idea of having a dragon to heed their commands, if they manage to find enough magic fuel.

Vetinari chooses not to take the threat of the dragon seriously

Vetinari inspects the site of the thugs being incinerated, and refuses to take heed of the footprints Samuel Vimes points out, as he dismisses the incident as gang warfare spilling over into the open. Colon distracts Carrot Ironfoundersson at the last moment, as he is about to read out criminal charges to the Patrician himself for violation of carriage wheel laws, with Samuel Vimes breathing a sigh of relief.

Vetinari issues orders to Lupine Wonse in his chambers

The Librarian, having witnessed the incineration first-hand from the safety of the rooftops, hurries back to the library, to find the book about dragons missing. Meanwhile, Vetinari asks his assistant Lupine Wonse to demolish the wall holding the ceramic silhouettes of the poor men burnt by the dragon, and asks someone more competent than the City Watch to be put to work tracking down possible leads.

Samuel Vimes gets to work investigating the dragon

Samuel Vimes gets his two senior men to go out into the town in plainclothes, and try to gauge the rumors going around regarding the accidents from the past night. He also thinks about the plaster cast he had made of the dragon's footprints kept hidden in his office, in direct contravention of the Patrician's orders. Carrot Ironfoundersson is delighted to be left in charge at the Watch House, free to read his rule-book.

Samuel Vimes visits Lady Sybil Ramkin, hoping to quiz her about dragons

Samuel Vimes heads to Lady Sybil Ramkin's manor in the aristocratic district of Ankh-Morpork, hoping to find out something useful about dragons. He recalls her business of breeding miniature swamp-dragons, kept as pets by the city's nobles, and notices the manor's outside wall crumbling. Eventually, he finds a side gate that looks to be well-maintained, and is alarmed to hear someone talk about dragons mating.

Chapter 2

Carrot Ironfoundersson accompanies the Librarian out into the city

The Librarian manages to persuade Carrot Ironfoundersson into following him out into the city, to track down a lead on some heinous crime. Meanwhile, the Supreme Grand Master puts his acolytes to work channelling their jealousy and resentment to the summoning ritual. Nobby and Colon go out of a tavern to relieve themselves, when they spot the dragon landing on a nearby rooftop.

Sybil Ramkin insists on showing off her swamp dragon pens to Samuel Vimes

At Sybil Ramkin's manor, Samuel Vimes is starstruck by the portraits and banners showing her ancestors, all barbarian warlords proficient in the martial arts. He asks her about the maximum size of swamp dragons, and tries to absorb the information about their lifestyle and mating habits. She takes him to her dragon pen, where he spots a dragon with wings too small for flight, and other bad phenotypic characteristics for breeding.

Samuel Vimes shows the dragon footprint to Sybil Ramkin

Samuel Vimes shows the plaster cast of the talon-print to Sybil Ramkin, leading her to immediately respond that it was a prank being played on him, given how noble dragons were extinct. Suddenly, the dragons in the pen go silent and stare up at the ceiling, causing Samuel Vimes to be alarmed.

Sybil Ramkin and Samuel Vimes witness the dragon take flight

Samuel Vimes and Sybil Ramkin watch the dragon fly through the air, setting fire to some buildings as it tests out the full potency of its flame-breath. He hurries off into the streets, intent on finding its secret

hideout, where it must rest during the day. Meanwhile, Carrot Ironfoundersson is led to the missing book in the University Library, with the Librarian using charades to help him guess the book's title.

Samuel Vimes and the soldiers regroup at the Watch House

Samuel Vimes notices how specific the damage done by the dragon is, and takes note of the businesses burned down in that night. Just as he returns to his office in the Watch House and prepares to get drunk, the rest of his squad return with the Librarian, all abuzz with talk of the dragon. Nobby recounts the myths surrounding dragons and their hoard of gold, leading Samuel Vimes to conclude that the entire city would be on the lookout for its secret hideout.

The Supreme Grand Master reveals the next stage of his plan to the acolytes

At the secret society's hideout, the Supreme Grand Master plans the next idea of propping up a fake king, who might kill the dragon and cement his authority as the city's ruler. He thinks about the elaborate preparations he had made to supply one of his dim-witted cousins with the arms and armour befitting a king, and of how he was currently cooped up in a farmhouse outside the city.

The Supreme Grand Master thinks about his endgame

The Supreme Grand Master learns of one of the acolytes being injured in a crocodile-related accident, and pitches in some money for the relief fund. He thinks about his own role as the advisor to the newly crowned king, and of how the rabble in his secret society would be promptly put to death to cover up the loose ends.

Samuel Vimes receives the latest news from Dibbler

Outside the Patrician's office, Samuel Vimes is amused to see the usual crowd of litigants, as well as the accompanying hot-dog salesmen circulating through the crowds. He runs into Dibbler, who shows him a special burn-treatment cream guaranteed to counter dragon's flame, as well as other bounty hunting equipment. He points out Vetinari's bounty on the dragon's head, and the resulting surge in armed men enlisting as dragon-hunters.

Samuel Vimes sees some local heroes express their disinterest in hunting the dragon

Samuel Vimes spots a few minor heroes struggling to read the bounty poster, and discussing how the bounty was nowhere close to covering their operating costs. Samuel Vimes tells them that Vetinari has no daughter he can offer as a prize for the dragon's head, leading to them losing even more interest in the bounty.

Vetinari learns about his bounty being too small to attract dragon-hunters

Vetinari is dismayed to hear the guild leaders demand an increase in the bounty value, with the Archchancellor of the Unseen University claiming that the dragon might simply have adapted to city life. Later, as Lupine Wonse insists on the traditional reward of the ruler's daughter and half the kingdom being the reward for a dragon-slayer, Vetinari wonders if the dragon can be bribed to go away.

Samuel Vimes discusses some leads with the Librarian

Samuel Vimes goes to the library at daytime, and finds the Librarian looking anxiously for updates. He tells the Librarian that the book thief must have been a wizard or student, who was a regular at the library, since the books hadn't made a fuss out of his night-time visit. The Librarian tells him that this is part of the reason he did not bring the issue to the University Council, and took it to the City Watch instead.

Samuel Vimes watches the dragon burn down the Watch House

Samuel Vimes spots the dragon perched on the Tower of Art, the centerpiece of Unseen University, as it drops down to swoop over the city. Eventually it circles back to the Watch House, and burns the ancient building to ashes. Bounty hunters all over the city gather on rooftops to try and fire arrows at the dragon, only to find its armoured skin resistant to all of their feeble projectiles.

Samuel Vimes is rescued by Carrot Ironfoundersson and nursed by Sybil Ramkin

Samuel Vimes recovers in Sybil Ramkin's bedroom, and learns that Carrot Ironfoundersson had grabbed him as he leapt off the roof, just as the dragon incinerated their headquarters. She had hurried to the burning ruins of the Watch House, insisting that Samuel Vimes be brought to her manor for treatment. Sybil Ramkin arrives a while later, with some food, and ointment for his cracked ribs. She tells him that about the notes she took the previous night about the dragon's dive and subsequent flight.

Samuel Vimes helps Sybil Ramkin deal with a mob outside her manor

Samuel Vimes wakes up a while later to hear a commotion downstairs as Sybil Ramkin fends off a gathering mob, intent on culling her swamp dragons. The leader of the mob states that one of her pets might be shape-shifting into the noble dragon terrorizing the city, just as Samuel Vimes descends with a particularly nasty swamp dragon breathing small jets of flame at them.

Samuel Vimes comes up with a plan to track down the dragon

Samuel Vimes manages to get the mob to disperse, after Sybil Ramkin coerces them into donating to her swamp dragon rescue fund on their way out. He looks at one of the deformed dragons in the pen, and asks Sybil Ramkin if one dragon can follow the scent of another, potentially leading to the lair of the noble dragon.

Sybil Ramkin inspects the new City Watch

Sybil Ramkin arrives with Samuel Vimes to the new headquarters of the City Watch, a refurbished building owned by her distant relative. She is delighted to see the Librarian standing at attention next to the three soldiers of the City Watch, with Nobby informing Samuel Vimes that the Librarian is a temporary addition to their squad.

The Supreme Grand Master corrals his acolytes for the next summoning

The Supreme Grand Master listens to his acolytes talk about their vigor being drained by the summoning ritual, and tries to distract them with talk of the endgame. He tells them that the dragon will simply be banished by his cousin's enchanted sword, with some smoke and mirrors being used to justify the absence of dragon viscera after the confrontation.

Samuel Vimes and the City Watch travel to the Shades

Colon gets treated by Sybil Ramkin when he accidentally lets slip the word monkey, and drives the Librarian into a rage. The deformed swamp dragon that Samuel Vimes adopted, gets the name Errolak, after Nobby compares its face to one of his brothers. Samuel Vimes hopes that Errolak can sniff out the trail of the noble dragon, as they head to the wall in the Shades district where the thugs had been incinerated.

Samuel Vimes faces the noble dragon at his new headquarters

At the Shades, Samuel Vimes notices the denizens busy hunting for the dragon-hoard, and finds Errolak uninterested in sniffing out the trail of the noble dragon. When they return to the new Watch House, Samuel Vimes is petrified by the noble dragon perched on the roof, staring intently at Errolak, cradled in his arms. A while later, a whistle rings as if to taunt the noble dragon, causing it to fly off in search of the challenger.

Chapter 3

Samuel Vimes and his party reach the city square to witness the challenge

At a nearby square, the hero with the glittering sword waits on his horse for the dragon, as citizens throng the streets, eager to see him get incinerated by the dragon's flame-breath. Samuel Vimes arrives with his squad and Sybil Ramkin, to find Dibbler already plying his trade amongst the crowd, and catches snippets of people discussing a return to monarchy.

Samuel Vimes finds it odd that the nothing remains of the noble dragon

Back home the next morning, Samuel Vimes tries to shut out the royalists celebrating all over the city streets, and tries to focus on the lack of any viscera when the dragon had been impaled by the hero's shining sword. He recalls Sybil Ramkin telling him about the mess swamp dragons made when they exploded spontaneously due to indigestion, and finds it odd that the noble dragon vanished in a puff of smoke.

Samuel Vimes suspects foul play in the appearance of the noble dragon, and the hero

Samuel Vimes casts further doubt on the convenient appearance of a young man claiming to be the scion of the long-lost royal bloodline, and recalls how Vetinari was forced to give up his position by the thronging masses. He tries once again to make sense of the noble dragon failing to breathe fire at the crucial juncture when facing the hero, and its vanishing afterward.

Sybil Ramkin notices her swamp dragons acting strange

Sybil Ramkin recalls the impromptu celebration and feast thrown by Vetinari to celebrate the coronation of the new king, as she prepares to feed her swamp dragons. In their pen, she notices them silently staring up at the ceiling, as if waiting for something momentous. Meanwhile, Carrot Ironfoundersson learns that the old guardsman Herbert Gaskin died trying to chase some petty thieves, and running so fast his heart gave out.

Samuel Vimes spots a magical tornado forming over the city

The Librarian decides to ply out a long ball of string behind him, as he heads deep into the Library's pocket dimensions in search of a way to find the contents of the missing book. At the city square where the noble dragon had been vanquished, Samuel Vimes tries to look for clues, and is alarmed when Errolak looks up at the sky where a magical tornado starts to take shape.

Sybil Ramkin and Samuel Vimes escape the city square where the dragon materializes

Sybil Ramkin arrives in her carriage at the city square, just as Samuel Vimes realizes the magical tendrils are searching for some life-force in the city. The two of them ride off with Errolak as the tendrils focus on drawing energy from the University Library, enabling the dragon to take a corporeal form in the square. It relishes the raw magical power available to consume in the Library, and sets out to find the feeble minds that had banished it earlier.

Sybil Ramkin and Samuel Vimes face the noble dragon

Sybil Ramkin foolishly tries to talk to the noble dragon, and is pinned down by one of its talons. Errolak instinctively tries to challenge the dragon, and is swatted aside, just in time for Samuel Vimes to catch it as it falls off a roof. He then brings Sybil Ramkin to safety, and notices the noble dragon sniff them for a moment before flying off into the city.

Errolak pursues the noble dragon using its sense of smell

Errolak jogs through the streets to the merchant district, in pursuit of the dragon flying through the fog-shrouded skies of Ankh-Morpork. Samuel Vimes finds his men observing the decorations go up for the coming coronation, and asks them to get on the carriage, as they continue to follow Errolak.

The noble dragon wipes out the Supreme Grand Master's hideout and all his acolytes

At the secret society's hideout, Brother Watchtower tries to lead another ritual in the absence of the Supreme Grand Master, who is busy with the coronation. The noble dragon incinerates the entire

building, along with all of the acolytes, just as they reassure themselves of the reward coming their way, now that the pretender had been successfully raised to the throne of Ankh-Morpork.

Samuel Vimes and his squad arrest Brother Fingers

Samuel Vimes and the squad happen to find Brother Fingers, who was out getting food for the meeting of the secret society. They see the guilt on his face as he finds the hideout a burning ruin, and decide to apprehend him. Colon identifies him as a low ranking thief working odd jobs at the university, and Samuel Vimes realizes he was probably the person who stole the tome.

Samuel Vimes arrests Brother Fingers, realizing he is close to unraveling the conspiracy

Samuel Vimes spots another hooded figure come looking for the secret society's hideout, and tries to apprehend the suspect. Carrot Ironfoundersson refuses to chase after the mysterious man, reminding Samuel Vimes that he had been forbidden from running by Colon. Samuel Vimes decides to take the matter to Vetinari, but is stopped at the palace gates by the newly appointed palace guard.

Carrot Ironfoundersson apprehends the two palace guards threatening Samuel Vimes

Carrot Ironfoundersson charges the two palace guards blocking their way with resisting arrest, and threatening to assault a city guardsman, as Samuel Vimes realizes there is no other way of getting through them. Carrot Ironfoundersson easily subdues the two guards using his dwarven martial arts, as Samuel Vimes watches on with amusement. Meanwhile, the Librarian manages to navigate the pocket dimension of the Library to arrive at the spot where the stolen book was kept, a week ago.

Samuel Vimes fails to convince Lupine Wonse about the return of the dragon

Samuel Vimes barges into Lupine Wonse's office, and tries to tell him that the noble dragon is back, and that he just saw it burn down a secret hideout at night. Lupine Wonse dismisses his ramblings, absorbed in the preparations for the coronation, and reminds him that the explosion might just have been a wizard's experiments gone wrong.

Samuel Vimes is taken back to the Watch House

Samuel Vimes falls asleep from the exhaustion and is carried back to the new Watch House by Carrot Ironfoundersson. Colon wakes him up the next morning, to tell him that the coronation requires all soldiers to line the streets in their ceremonial uniforms. Samuel Vimes decides to have his squad up on the rooftops, in case the dragon is still close to the city waiting for the fog to clear up. A while later Carrot Ironfoundersson arrives with a chew toy for Errolak, who seems to be upset, and uninterested in his favourite foods.

The Librarian decides not to interfere with history by stopping the theft of the book

Samuel Vimes is dismayed to see the citizens wholeheartedly embracing the idea of autocracy as he walks into his regular breakfast place. Meanwhile, the Librarian finishes reading the book on summoning dragons, and realizes that he can prevent it being stolen if he hides it or knocks out the thief. Instead,

the Librarian chooses to let the book get stolen, and follows one of the hooded figures back to his home to know more about the secret society.

Samuel Vimes is dismissed by Lupine Wonse for causing a commotion at the ceremony

At the open amphitheater built for the coronation, Samuel Vimes spots a winged creature rising out of the misty river, and yells out that the dragon is back. He is scolded by Lupine Wonse, for stopping the procession over the flapping of a large raven. Lupine Wonse suspends Samuel Vimes after asking him to surrender his badge. Samuel Vimes returns to the Watch House to find his bottle of liquor broken, and Errolak having eaten half the wooden furniture in the room.

The three soldiers of the City Watch spot the dragon hiding up above the city

Carrot Ironfoundersson, Nobby and Colon stand on top of the Temple of Small Gods, trying to peer through the fog in search of the dragon. A while later, Nobby realizes that the statue he is leaning on is moving, and spots the dragon unfurling its wings from atop the dome of the temple. It takes flight, leaving the three of them flattened on the temple roof, hoping for the structure to remain intact.

Samuel Vimes reunites with Sybil Ramkin at the coronation square

Samuel Vimes hears the cheering crowds start to scream, and puts on his helmet to return to the coronation square. He spots the citizens stampeding their way out of the square, as the dragon gently glides down to land in front of the amphitheater, to then incinerate it. Sybil Ramkin finds Samuel Vimes hiding behind a water fountain, as the noble dragon waits patiently for someone to show up.

Lupine Wonse is caught by the noble dragon

The noble dragon carries Lupine Wonse in one of its talons, as he struggles to get out of the ruins of the amphitheater, and walks to the king's palace. Samuel Vimes hears the sounds of iron melting, as the dragon breathes its flame on the front-door, and hears the sound of more destruction from deep within. Meanwhile, Vetinari smiles inwardly from deep within the dungeons of the palace, as the dragon gets to work burning down the structure above ground.

Lupine Wonse addresses the city's Guildmasters in the royal palace

Samuel Vimes is sad to see the moarchists quickly adapting to the idea of having the noble dragon be their king. The next morning, the city's council of Guildmasters is summoned by Lupine Wonse, who offers them lunch in the great hall of the palace. The noble dragon hangs upside down from the palace roof watching over them, as Lupine Wonse outlines the change in foreign policy, designed to grow the dragon's hoard of gold.

Lupine Wonse talks about the dragon's traditional diet

Lupine Wonse goes on to tell the Guildmasters that the dragon needs a steady diet of maidens, and that they must consider fulfilling its requests to avoid the prospect of their entire city burning down in a

single day. The Guildmasters leave, with the head assassin noticing Lupine Wonse asking silently for help as they depart.

Lupine Wonse dreads his life in subservience to the noble dragon

Lupine Wonse, who is secretly the Supreme Grand Master, goes to the main hall of the palace when the dragon summons him telepathically. He tries to explain to it that the human mind will adapt in time to the threat of its flame-breath, and automatically quell any challenge to its rule. The dragon is horrified by the pragmatic nature of the human mind, and is amused by the idea that no hero will ever rise to challenge it.

Lupine Wonse fails to convince the dragon to turn away from human sacrifice

Lupine Wonse tries to argue against the dragon's need for a steady supply of maidens, and it tells him that tradition demands it more than any intrinsic need. It asks Lupine Wonse to arrange for the supply of young women, and flies off into the city through a broken window of the palace.

Colon and the remaining Night Watch receive new orders from the dragon

Colon and the two other soldiers mourn the absence of Samuel Vimes and Errolak in the Guard House, just as some palace guard arrive with a proclamation from the dragon. With great difficulty, the palace guardsman reads out the diktat asking for a maiden as the dragon's meal. Colon is confident that the people will reject this order, as he prepares to spread the word on the streets.

Samuel Vimes parts with Errolak at Sybil Ramkin's manor

Samuel Vimes leaves Errolak in Sybil Ramkin's care, believing that he has started to diversify diet hoping to challenge the noble dragon with his flame-breath. He says goodbye to Sybil Ramkin awkwardly, and wishes for nothing more than to banish the dragon and have his job back. He decides to track down the acolyte who had evaded them earlier, and sets off down the street.

Colon spreads the word about the virgin sacrifice demanded by the dragon

Colon addresses a crowd at night, talking about the dragon's proclamation. He is dismayed to see a significant number accede to the dragon's demands, even as others express opposition. Colon notices the dragon gliding over them to settle down on a nearby rooftop, just as one of the acolytes runs away, fearing for his daughters' lives. The dragon promptly burns the lone citizen brave enough to voice his dissent to its face.

Colon comes up with a plan to defeat the dragon, at Carrot Ironfoundersson's suggestion

The Librarian emerges into the present Library after its trip to the past, and heads straight for Lupine Wonse's home. Meanwhile, Colon and Carrot Ironfoundersson discuss the possibility of firing an arrow at the dragon's weak spot, and persuade Nobby to put his archery skills to the ultimate test.

Samuel Vimes confronts Lupine Wonse, and is imprisoned by the palace guards

Samuel Vimes corners Lupine Wonse in his new chamber within the palace, as he fishes around for the magical tome and his cultist robes. Lupine Wonse calls for the palace guards, and is dismayed to see them hesitate when asked to deal with the intruder. Samuel Vimes decides to play along with the palace guards, giving them the most heroic smile he can muster. He allows himself to be dragged to the nearby dungeon, as the Librarian observes the events from the ceiling beams.

Sybil Ramkin knocks herself out trying to confront the palace guards

Sybil Ramkin investigates her dragon pens when all sounds of their snoring ceases in the night, and finds Errolak deathly cold from some mysterious chemical rearrangement of his flame-production system. A while later, she finds some palace guards asking her to come to the palace, and decides to charge at them with her ancestral broadsword. Another guard trips her up, knocking her out when she crashes into one of the statues in the garden.

Chapter 4

Samuel Vimes learns about Vetinari's contingencies in the dungeon

Samuel Vimes finds Vetinari in the dungeon, busy training some magically mutated rats from the Unseen University to bring him supplies and food. The rats' tunnel network extends all through the city, and Samuel Vimes realizes that Vetinari is building his own network of spies to keep abreast of the going-on in the palace. Vetinari shows him the dungeon's door, which has several strong bolts that can lock it from the inside, keeping them safe from the palace guards.

Colon tests out his old longbow

Colon unwraps his treasured longbow, and prepares to fire an arrow at the nearby building's weather vane, for target practice. Carrot Ironfoundersson helps him string the bow, and is alarmed when the arrow completely misses its target, and ricochets off a nearby gargoyle. Nobby hopes that the gods in Dunmanifestin are watching their one-in-a-million gambit, and know the rules of the game when it comes to desperate last attempts.

Samuel Vimes and Vetinari bide their time in the dungeon

Samuel Vimes gets to work scrubbing the mortar out of a small grille along the dungeon wall, meant to allow light in. Vetinari is busy reading the books brought to him by the rats of the University, and takes little notice of Samuel Vimes. Meanwhile, the Librarian chooses not to pursue his vendetta, and retreats to the Library.

The Librarian breaks Samuel Vimes out of the dungeon

The Night Watch wonder how to calculate the odds of Colon hitting the dragon's weak spot, and get to work ensuring that it is a one-in-a-million chance. Meanwhile, the Librarian manages to find the dungeon grille, and twists the iron bars free, pulling up Samuel Vimes with little effort. They run through the abandoned kitchens, and deal with some guards minding the gate out into the city.

Colon fires his lucky arrow at the dragon

Errolak suffers from more digestive issues in the dragon pen of Sybil Ramkin's manor. Meanwhile, the Night Watch notice Sybil Ramkin being chained to a rock, as sacrifice for the dragon. Colon fires his lucky arrow at it, just as it glides over them, on its way to the sacrificial offering. The arrow bounces off its scales, causing it to breathe flames at the distillery that Colon fired from.

Samuel Vimes frees Sybil Ramkin from her chains

The distillery catches fire and explodes, with the debris rising to enshroud the dragon. Samuel Vimes manages to use a cleaver from the palace kitchen to break the chains binding Sybil Ramkin, after dealing with some palace guards trying to stop him. Meanwhile, Nobby and Colon manage to escape the conflagration by jumping off the roof into an adjacent lake, dragging themselves out slowly to the shore.

Errolak tries to fight the noble dragon using his flame-flatulence

Carrot Ironfoundersson persuades his two superiors to follow him into the street where the dragon has landed, and is probably busy eating the sacrificial maiden. Errolak rises from the dragon pens, using his own flame-flatulence as thrust, and fights the noble dragon. He manages to nimbly avoid all the fire that the dragon throws at him, and eventually realizes the best option is fly away from the city. Meanwhile, Vetinari uses the spare key to the dungeon to unlock it, and strides out of the palace.

Errolak stuns the noble dragon with its supersonic flight

Errolak manages to catch the noble dragon in his sonic boom, as he shoots past it, narrowly avoiding its flame-breath. The noble dragon crashes into the city streets, disoriented by the loud noise and shockwave. Citizens rush to butcher it in its moment of weakness, just as Colon tells Samuel Vimes that Carrot Ironfoundersson is attempting to arrest the noble dragon.

Carrot Ironfoundersson's arrest of the noble dragon is interrupted by Errolak

Carrot Ironfoundersson tries to read the charge-sheet for the noble dragon, as it lies pinned down beneath a pile of rubble. As the gathered citizens watch on in stunned silence, Errolak eventually flies back to hover over the noble dragon, seemingly gloating in his victory. Sybil Ramkin realizes that the noble dragon is female, and that Errolak has managed to bind to it mate. The two of them slowly rise over the city, and start to glide away.

Samuel Vimes and the Night Watch head for the palace

Samuel Vimes and the Watch run for the palace, threatening the palace guardsmen with imprisonment, lest they open the gates. Samuel Vimes asks Carrot Ironfoundersson to arrest them anyway, and jail them in the guardhouse, as they make their way further into the palace. Meanwhile, Lupine Wonse tries to escape the palace with the stolen tome, having spotted Vetinari's silhouette stalking the corridors.

Carrot Ironfoundersson accidentally kills Lupine Wonse

At the palace, Samuel Vimes walks in on Lupine Wonse and Vetinari facing off, and asks Carrot Ironfoundersson to throw the book at the mastermind. Carrot Ironfoundersson literally throws the rulebook at Lupine Wonse, making him fall off a great height onto the palace floor. Vetinari dismisses the rest of the City Watch, and tells Samuel Vimes in private that the citizens of Ankh-Morpork are too self-centered to stand up to evil.

The Librarian takes back the stolen book from Lupine Wonse

The Librarian retrieves the stolen tome on summoning dragons from the body of Lupine Wonse, as Vetinari tells him to take Carrot Ironfoundersson's rule-book along with him, to be buried deep in the Library. Samuel Vimes prepares to get a drink with the Librarian, anxious about how Vetinari planned to reward them the next day.

Vetinari grants an audience to the Night Watch to hear their requests

Vetinari is amused by the paltry rewards that Colon asks for in front of the assembled council of nobles. Samuel Vimes breaks out into long-suppressed laughter at the request for a wage increase and a dartboard, as Vetinari struggles to hide his amusement. Later in the day, Samuel Vimes returns to Sybil Ramkin's manor, and spots some women helping repair the damage done by Errolak.

Samuel Vimes decides to take up Sybil Ramkin's offer of a relationship

Samuel Vimes stumbles his way through a dinner with Sybil Ramkin, as the rest of the Night Watch relax at the Mended Drum, pleased by the newfound respect they commanded from the citizens. Colon works out the fact that Carrot Ironfoundersson might be the long-lost heir of the kings of Ankh-Morpork, after examining his birthmark and sword, just as Vetinari had the night before. He chooses not to voice his opinion, and continues to drink the night away.

Book 2: Men at Arms

Chapter 1

Glossary

Brother Fingers b. 72, 81

Brother Plasterer b. 72, 73

Brother Watchtower b. 72–74, 80

Carrot Ironfoundersson b. 73–78, 80–86

Colon b. 74–76, 79, 81–86

Death b. 73

Detritus b. 75

Dibbler b. 77, 79

Errolak b. 79–86

Herbert Gaskin b. 73, 80

Librarian b. 72, 75–86

Lupine Wonse b. 74, 75, 77, 81–84, 86

Nobby b. 74–79, 82–85

Patrician b. 73, 75, 76

Samuel Vimes b. 72–86

Supreme Grand Master b. 72, 73, 75–77, 79, 80, 83

Sybil Ramkin b. 76, 78–80, 82–86

Varneshi b. 73

Vetinari b. 74, 75, 77, 80–82, 84–86